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We'll, *innocently*, steal celestial fire,
And kindle our devotion at the stars.

Young.

AGAIN, children of the dust, your guardian condescends to address you! He has been farther from you than your imaginations ever traveled. He has witnessed what you could not see and live. Yet no haughty passion has entered his mind. Angels do not become elated by the grandeur of the objects they survey, or the importance of the occupations in which they are engaged; for they perceive too well the comparative littleness of all they can attain to or comprehend. They see that the poorest thing which shews vitality and volition, when viewed in connexion with its great Author, stands on the same level with the highest spirit that bows before his throne. Their faculties are ever growing—the sphere of their knowledge spreads wider and wider—some few individuals of their number have already gained intelligence and power, which surpass all that the whole of created existence originally possessed—and the station now occupied by them shall hereafter be far beneath that of the meanest of their associates, for all shall advance rapidly, and still move rapidly, in strength, skill, science, understanding, goodness and enjoyment,—but the immeasurable distance between the first of them, and Him who alone is great and wise, must forever remain exactly the same. Your feeble companions in guilt have but slight knowledge of God, and are filled with pride—we have seen him, and we know that before him, all which ever began to be is less than nothing and vanity.

In obedience to high command I have visited the palace of

universal empire. In a moment after I had left your world it vanished from my view, and your sun dwindled to a star. Presently all that you have discovered of the universe appeared as a faint and nebulous spot, dimly discernible beyond the brighter systems that surrounded me. These soon faded away while my rapid journey crossed another more glorious collection of congregated worlds, which shone around me for a little period, and were followed in long succession by higher, and still higher creations of infinite power. Your feeble sight would be forever quenched by one glance at the suns which glow near the residence of Him, who dwells in light inaccessible, yet they are dark or viewless to the pure spirits that fill his courts. I have been admitted into their habitation, but as you could not sustain the glory that fills and surrounds it, so neither can you apprehend its nature,—for the bodily eye cannot see, nor the corporal ear hear, nor the heart of those who live in houses of clay understand, what God has there given to them that love him.

Your little minds cannot receive complete ideas of Him, nor even of the place where his honour dwells, yet you are capable of learning, and I am commanded to unfold some few of the operations of his hands. Strange contrast! I have returned from the society of the first of created beings, and the immediate presence of Him who made them, to converse with you. I teach a minute part of your degraded race, when I have just now been concerned in transactions more important than all the joys and sorrows, that six thousand years have brought upon the whole. You may think this degradation, but such is not the judgment of Angels. We can readily turn from the highest, to the humblest employments;—from the worship of Heaven, to the business of Earth,—from the company of blessed spirits, to the instruction of fallen man,—from the temple of the Most High, to this poor abode of guilt and wretchedness;—for we study to imitate Him, who now destroys an empire and then an insect,—now forms a world, and then expands a flower,—now redeems a ruined creation, and then restores a faded plant,—who inhabits eternity, and

controls the events of each successive instant,—who fills immensity, and yet dwells in the heart of the lowliest penitent.

He has impressed upon his creatures the inevitable law of perpetual activity, motion and change. "Cuncta fluunt" was one of the few gleams of truth, that reason or tradition had thrown athwart the darkness of Heathen mythology. You imagine that in vacuity of thought, or the repose of exhausted nature, the mind of man may rest with his body, and that innumerable objects remain unaltered for years and ages. Poor ignorants! stop for one waking moment the motion of your minds,—chain down the soul to the couch of your slumbers, and let no dream ever delight or disturb your repose, before you conclude that spirits can be still. If you think of those monarchs of the forest which the storms of many centuries have in vain endeavoured to remove from their place,—of the perpetual hills, the enduring mountains, and the earth which abideth for ever;—I will not merely tell you of the circulation of the sap, and the growth and decay of leaves, fruits and branches,—of the formation and crumbling of rocks, and gathering and lapse or dissolution of snows,—of the ocean at one time reflecting the skies from its placid surface, and reducing all nature into a continuous sphere of cerulean light, and at another tossing the affrighted seaman in all the horrors of the tempest,—of verdure now spread over half a continent, and anon blasted and swept away by the breath of winter,—of the dry land encroaching on the sea and conveying fertility and the dwellings of men into the waste places of its ancient dominion,—and of the sea covering the land, and leaving the mingled remains of their inhabitants as a testimony to distant ages of revealed truth;—but I will remind you, that every portion of matter tends toward every other, and that all the worlds which you can measure are kept from rushing together, only by constant revolution. Yet this is not the extent to which even human philosophy may lead you. It was once supposed that your Sun revolved only around the common centre of his little system, but later observation has shewn that he too is but an humble satellite, and that with his attendant

worlds he flies through the Heavens so swiftly, as many times in every hour to measure a distance equal to that which stretches from "burning Afric to the pole." So too the other luminaries of Heaven which night displays to your view, and those which the "aided eye" of the astronomer has been able to reach, obey the original impulse that drives them forward in their endless circuits. They and your Sun are preserved by rapid and harmonious movements from mutual destruction, and with all their planets form "one little leaf in the Creator's garden." They are *hung upon nothing*, but with innumerable other, larger, nobler armies of collected systems, they revolve in perpetual succession, around one vast central world, which alone is fixed. Here are placed the court and the throne of the Most High, and here is made that visible manifestation of infinite excellence, before which angels bow, and arch-angels veil their faces. Faint emblem of the Deity, this Heaven of Heavens has remained stable and unaltered from the first appearance of existing things, and it shall last unchanged till the end of that little period, which men call time. Then it will be *changed as a vesture*, for He who alone is forever the same, will make all things new. Then the system of divine operations which now awakes the wonder and the praise of every holy angel shall be done away, and another more glorious shall come into existence, destined like it to last through but one of the moments of eternity.

The human mind is so contracted that men lessen and degrade every noble truth before they can receive it; and they have weakly imagined that after these Heavens and this guilty Earth shall be no more, the new Heavens and the new Earth shall endure forever, under one single dispensation. If you are ready to admit this common error, look back into past times and events, and then abroad upon such of the works of the Deity, as he has permitted you to understand. Search and discover two nations, states of society, wars, revolutions, improvements or inventions precisely resembling each other: or examine and find one fixed or wandering star; one continent, climate, country, hill or vale; one human form, face or limb;

one animated inhabitant of air, earth or sea ; one tree, plant, flower, leaf or seed ; or one rock, stone, grain of sand or particle of floating dust exactly like its fellow ; ere you dare thus to limit the fertility of infinite invention. No the " long ages of Eternity" will not be passed in one dull uniformity. He who here reveals a nature at once unchangeable and ever active—who is pleased to carry on his operations with that constancy which enables his creatures to gain indispensable knowledge, and yet with such endless diversity as prevents mistake and confusion—who demonstrates infinite power and wisdom in the smallest work of his hands, and repeats the proof in some varied form in each and every other individual existence—will throughout eternity appear the same great, wise, good and immutable Jehovah, and yet the same " wonder-working God, who travels in all the greatness of his attributes," not only " in every one spot and corner of the universe," but in every hour and moment of the utmost duration that dependant intelligence can recollect or measure. Filling every atom and every instant with different appearances of incomprehensible majesty, he has not planned the small series of future events or existences by one single model—but after the consummation of all those things that men or angels have as yet seen, he will raise another creation to shew yet veil that infinite excellence, before whose unclouded brightness Heaven and its hosts would vanish away ;—and in its turn this new universe *shall wax old as doth a garment*, and give place to other and nobler exhibitions of infinite perfection. Thus while the faculties of blessed spirits shall forever widen, they will still wonder and admire in the contemplation of the unknown and exhaustless wealth of creative energy—and at the most distant point in futurity to which the imagination of the " living ones" who stand " in the midst of the throne" of God has yet extended, they will be compelled to say, *Great and marvellous are thy works ! oh Lord God Almighty ! in wisdom hast thou made them all !*

Judging according to your own imperfect reason, you may suppose that we look forward with solicitude or restless curi-

osity to the varieties of untried being through which we are yet to pass; but here again you would be deluded by the weakness of your species. We do not endeavour to pry into the unsearchable depths of divine determination, nor to comprehend what our enlarged faculties will hereafter lose and exhaust themselves in attempting to explore; nor do we carry back a profane imagination into the ages which elapsed before we were brought into being, inquiring what or how many millions of successive creations exhibited the grandeur and goodness of the Eternal, to countless kinds of happy intelligences; who through millennium after millennium exulted in his smile, and then without consciousness, apprehension or pain suffered annihilation;—nor do we dread any event which futurity can bring; for we know in whom we trust, and we are assured by the word of Him who cannot lie, that whatever destiny his wisdom may have given to former existences, or whatever his justice may inflict upon the violators of his law, we shall remain secure, for he has formed us holy and invulnerable, and "made us to last as long as himself." Glory be to his name, we "bear the mark upon the forehead that we belong to God, and we are ready to go to any world to which he shall appoint, certain that every where, in height or depth, he will acknowledge us forever!"

The narrow conceptions of your fellow-men will reject the discovery that Heaven is material. Accustomed to reason about that which they do not and cannot comprehend, they speak of matter as if they fully understood its nature, though neither their senses nor their philosophy have brought home the knowledge of even one of its essential properties. All that you see and hear and feel are but mere appearances destined hereafter to vanish away, but the imperishable substance which they clothe shall be adorned with different and brighter qualities, and moulded into the new Heavens and the new Earth; fit abodes of happy intelligences, in a higher stage of their endless advancement. You may suppose that matter is to be destroyed when the Earth and all that it contains shall be burnt up, but this is only the misapprehension of your ig-

norant race. Reflect on what may fall under your own limited observation,—bring every agent that you can control to bear upon the smallest portion of matter. You may reduce it to dust, or dissolve it in fluids, or consume it with fire; but all that you can effect is to alter the form and quality, for not one particle is annihilated. And thus it will ever be, not only in the smaller operations of nature that come within your power, but also in those higher changes which no finite being can guide or understand,—for He who alone possesses eternity past, has given that which is future not only to intelligent, but even to inanimate essence. Hence you may learn how your vile bodies shall be raised glorious and immortal. All their base, loathsome, changeable and perishable properties shall be lost in the grave, but their indestructible substance, though it may be scattered by the winds, divided among distant countries, absorbed into the veins of animals, and the channels which convey vegetable life, and buried in the caverns of the earth and the depths of the sea,—shall remain unaltered, when all that you know of matter shall have passed away.

Perhaps you wonder that while the centres of smaller systems are discovered, no ray has shown you that vast sun whose powerful attraction retains all other suns in their respective orbits. In justice, and yet in mercy you are screened from its effulgence; for its light is too pure to be bestowed upon any being who is contaminated with sin, and too powerful to be sent into any organ that can be dissolved. Unlike the dull element which you call light, it acts by no progressive motion. The sluggish march of your sun's beams, which pass but twelve millions of miles in a minute, would never have brought it down to your world, or carried it hence to the meanest bound of the creation. They too are soon absorbed and lost among unnumbered spheres, or reduced to nothing by diffusion—but this heavenly medium of sight, never scattered or weakened, is as effectual when its source is remote as when it is near, and like the power of gravitation, and the motions of disembodied spirits, it equally extends through empty space and impenetrable matter. Thus being neither "propagated in time," nor

impeded by obstacles, nor diminished by distance, wherever on the farther side of the most solid globe, or near the verge of created things, any holy angel dwells or wanders—it instantly conveys to him the distinct perception, not only of that all pervading presence which inhabits immensity, but also of that glorified humanity, which in mysterious union with the divine nature sits on the throne of the universe, receiving homage from every sinless being to whom thought and feeling have been given. Hence Heaven is at once local and universal, and when Cherubim and Seraphim cast their crowns at the feet of the most High, every faithful subject within his empire bows down in united adoration, and created existence from its farthest extremities returns one shout of praise.

AZRAEL.

SONNET.

Come Fancy, raise unto my mental sight,
Delightful scenes that ever charm my soul,
Come spread the vernal landscape green and bright
Where whispering zephyrs hreathe and streamlets roll,
Come ope the curtain of the early morn
And scatter far the twilight's mellow shade,
Unveil the hues that heaven's blue vault adorn
That kindle when the gleams of evening fade
And all the scene around in sweetness is array'd.

C. E.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The *Ode to Music* shall be inserted.

Perry's victory on Lake Erie has been received.

Farewell to my Lute is under consideration.